

Claims.

1.- Skirting board, more particularly a skirting board with
5 a laminated surface on one or more sides, characterized in
that it is composed of short pieces (59), more particularly
with a length of less than two meters, which can be mounted
successively one after the other in longitudinal direction.

10 2.- Skirting board according to claim 1, characterized in
that the successive pieces (59) are provided with coupling
means (60), as a result of which they can be coupled to
each other, whether or not directly.

15 3.- Skirting board according to claim 1 or 2, characterized
in that the successive pieces (59) are provided with
positioning means, due to which they can be at least
partially aligned in respect to each other.

20 4.- Skirting board according to any of the preceding
claims, characterized in that the successive pieces (59)
are provided with attachment means, which are designed such
that they are seated blindly by the mounting of the
subsequent piece of skirting board (59).

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5.- Skirting board according to any of the preceding
claims, characterized in that direct coupling means (66)
are present between the pieces (59), which allow a
connection of the narrow extremities of the pieces (59),
30 more particularly of the edge areas (67-68), whereby these
coupling means (66) at least consist of first coupling
parts (69), substantially in the form of a tongue (70) and
a groove (71) that realize at least a well-defined locking
in a direction (R1) perpendicularly to the plane of the

skirting board (1), and second coupling parts (72) that realize at least a well-defined locking in a direction (R2) according to the length of the skirting board (1), whereby the second coupling parts (72) at least comprise, on the one hand, a part (73) that can be pressed down in an elastic manner, said part being movable transverse to the plane of the skirting board (1), whether or not perpendicularly thereto, which part is situated at the edge area (68) at which the tongue (70) is present, and, on the other hand, a part (74) cooperating therewith at the other edge area, whereby these two coupling parts (72) are situated in a zone behind the tip (75) of the tongue (70) and, even better, are situated entirely or almost entirely behind the zone (T) taken by the tongue (70).

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6.- Skirting board according to claim 5, characterized in that, in coupled condition, the elastically compressible part (73) cooperates with a part (74) that is provided on a protruding lip (76).

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7.- Skirting board according to any of the preceding claims, characterized in that the successive pieces comprise coupling means offering at least a locking in longitudinal direction and that these coupling means are realized such that the pieces (59) can be engaged by shifting and/or turning or both.

8.- Skirting board according to claim 7, characterized in that the pieces of skirting board (59) at their narrow sides comprise coupling means (66A) extending parallel to the front side (4) as well as coupling means (66B) extending parallel to the upper side (5).

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9.- Skirting board according to any of the preceding claims, characterized in that it shows a tile pattern, whereby at the location of each transition between two pieces (59) an imitation of a joint (62) is present.

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10.- Skirting board according to claim 9, characterized in that the imitation of the joint (47) is formed by means of one of the following possibilities:

- by means of a print;
- 10 - by means of an impression;
- by means of a print combined with an impression;
- by means of a removed material portion along the edge of the joint;
- by means of a removed material portion in the shape
15 of an inclination or so-called bevel (63), upon which, whether or not, a separate decorative layer (64), such as a lacquer, print or impregnation agent, is provided;
- by means of a difference in the surface structure
20 at the location of the joint, the tile pattern, respectively.

11.- Skirting board, characterized in that it consists of at least two structural parts (2-3), a first part (2)
25 forming at least a part of the front side (4) of the skirting board (1), and a second part (3) forming at least a part of the upper side (5) of the skirting board (1), whereby both parts (2-3) are formed from a laminate material (6), formed by means of pressing power, with a
30 core (7) and a synthetic material-based top layer (8) provided thereupon.

12.- Skirting board according to claim 11, characterized in that said two parts (2-3) are formed from a plate-shaped material.

5 13.- Skirting board according to claim 11 or 12, characterized in that said two parts (2-3) are manufactured from a similar or one and the same laminate material (6) and show the same pattern, and even better originate of one and the same laminate plate.

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14.- Skirting board according to any of the claims 11 to 13, characterized in that said two parts (2-3) adjoin each other with their top layers (8) at least at the height of the outer side of the skirting board, whereby the top
15 layers (8) preferably show patterns that fade into each other.

15.- Skirting board according to claim 11, 12 or 13, characterized in that at the location of the corner edge
20 formed by the two aforementioned structural parts (2-3), a material portion is removed, preferably in the form of a bevel, whereby a decorative layer (23) is provided on the obtained surface.

25 16.- Skirting board according to any of the claims 11 to 15, characterized in that said top layer (8) is formed of one or more compressed and/or pressed upon the core (7) and consolidated therewith, resin-impregnated layers.

30 17.- Skirting board according to any of the claims 11 to 16, characterized in that said laminate material (6) of at least one of said two parts (2-3), and preferably of both parts, consists of so-called DPL (Direct Pressure Laminate).

18.- Skirting board according to any of the claims 11 to 17, characterized in that the top layer (8) of the
aforementioned two parts (2-3) is provided with a tile
5 pattern with joints (39) extending over the front side (4)
and the upper side (5).

19.- Skirting board, characterized in that it has a
laminated surface both at the front side (4) and at the
10 upper side (5), which surface is obtained by means of a
press operation, whereby at least one surface is formed by
a previously formed laminate film, whereby both laminated
surfaces have been subjected to one and the same or a
similar finishing treatment.

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20.- Skirting board, characterized in that it has a
laminated surface both at the front side (4) and at the
upper side (5), whereby at the edge between the upper side
(5) and the front side (4), an amount of material has been
20 removed, preferably in the form of a bevel, and whereby the
obtained surface is provided with a decorative layer (23).

21.- Skirting board, characterized in that it at least
consists of a first part (2) forming at least a portion of
25 the front side (4) of the skirting board (1), and a second
part (3) forming at least a portion of the upper side (5)
of the skirting board (1), whereby both parts (2-3) are
formed from the same piece of laminate material (6), with a
core (7) and a top layer (8) of the DPL type, and whereby
30 the second part (3) consists of a part that is obtained in
that a material portion (83) is removed from the material
of the core (7) of the laminate material (6), whereby the
first part (2) and the second part (3) are brought together

by means of turning them towards each other around a folding or breaking line (85).

22.- Skirting board according to claim 21, characterized in that the second part (3) and the first part (2) are mutually folded and/or broken around a folding and/or breaking line (85), which had been originally present as a weakened material zone (84) that had been realized partially up into the top layer (8).

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23.- Skirting board according to claim 21 or 22, characterized in that it has a post-treated edge between the upper side (5) and the front side (4).

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24.- Skirting board according to claim 23, characterized in that the aforementioned post-treated edge is formed by a surface obtained by the removal of an amount of material, whereby the obtained surface is provided with a decorative layer (23).

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25.- Skirting board, characterized in that it combines the characteristics of two or more of the preceding claims, insofar they are no contradictory.

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26.- Floor covering system, consisting of floor panels and skirting boards, whereby the floor panels (38) are formed of laminated panels with a core and a pressed-thereupon top layer on the basis of synthetic material, preferably so-called DPL (Direct Pressure Laminate), characterized in that skirting boards (1) according to any of the claims 1 to 25 are used, whereby the top layers (8) of the skirting boards (1) and of the floor panels (38) are matched to each other.

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27.- Floor covering system according to claim 26, characterized in that the top layers are matched to each other in showing one or more of the following features:

- 5 - the skirting boards (1) and the floor panels (38) have been realized by a similar manufacturing process;
- both top layers consist of so-called DPL (Direct Pressure Laminate);
- 10 - the top layers are formed by means of identical decor layers, more particular identical paper layers impregnated with resin and printed with one and the same pattern;
- the top layers are finished in a similar manner, more particularly, both are provided with one or
15 more of the following finishes:
 - impressions in the surface;
 - impressions in the surface, which are in register with the pattern of a decor layer used in the top layer;
 - 20 - impressions in the surface, in which a component is provided, either a colour component or an active component;
 - a finishing treatment of the surface, as a consequence of which the feature thereof is
25 altered, such as, amongst others, a glossed surface.

28.- Floor covering system, consisting of floor panels that can be coupled mechanically, floor panels for realizing
30 such floor covering system, respectively, characterized in that the floor panels, at least at two opposed edge areas, are provided with coupling means for coupling such floor panels to each other, whereby these coupling means show the

same characteristics as those described in claims 5 to 7 for coupling pieces of skirting board.

29.- Method for manufacturing skirting boards according to
5 any of the claims 11 to 18, characterized in that a laminate material (6), with a core (7) and a pressed thereupon top layer (8) on the basis of synthetic material, is formed by means of pressing power; that, by means of one or more machining operations, said two parts (2-3) are
10 formed out of said laminate material (6); and that said two parts (2-3) are directly or indirectly connected to each other.

30.- Method according to claim 29, characterized in that
15 one starts from pieces of laminate material (6) having coupling means (66) on two opposite sides, in such a manner that after the assembly of the two parts (2-3), also coupling means (66) are created at the extremities of the skirting board (1).

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31.- Method for manufacturing skirting boards according to any of the claims 21 to 24, characterized in that a laminate material (6) with a core (7) and a pressed-thereupon top layer (8) of the so-called DPL type is formed
25 by means of pressing power; that, for forming the skirting boards (1), one starts from laths or strips of said laminate material (6), whereby at least at one longitudinal edge of these laths, a material portion is removed, such that said first part (2) and second part (3) are formed,
30 whereby both parts (2-3) remain connected at least by a portion of the top layer (8), and possibly by a weakened core portion below the top layer (8); and that said parts (2-3) are turned towards each other and are joined together and attached to each other.

32.- Method according to claim 31, characterized in that when removing said material portion (83), a weakened zone (84) is formed, whereby material is removed partially up
5 into the top layer (8).

33.- Method according to claim 31 or 32, characterized in that after joining said parts (2-3), a post-treatment is performed at the height of the exterior side of the
10 skirting board (1), where said parts (2-3) adjoin each other.

34.- Method according to claim 33, characterized in that for the post-treatment, one or more of the following
15 possibilities are chosen:

- colouring, preferably with a colour matching said top layer (8) of both aforementioned parts;
- removing an amount of material at the height of the exterior side of the skirting board (1), where said
20 parts (2-3) adjoin each other;
- sanding;
- providing a bevel, preferably an inclination at an angle of 45° in respect to the front side (4) of the skirting board (5);
- 25 - providing a decorative layer (23) at the height of the edge.